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**Environment Department Hosts Restore Revitalize New Mexico Brownfields Event
Wednesday in Albuquerque**

Brownfields Programs Help Turn Formerly Blighted Properties into Usable Sites

WHAT: The New Mexico Environment Department will host an event to help members of the public and organizations understand the department's Brownfields Development and Voluntary Remediation Programs. The programs, which merge environmental restoration and economic development, help landowners turn formerly blighted properties into usable, thriving sites and ventures. NMED has free environmental services to provide to eligible municipalities and nonprofits. The department has overseen the remediation of nearly 100 brownfields properties in New Mexico that have been "restored and revitalized" for the benefit of surrounding communities. Members of the public, commercial developers, real estate agencies, planners, construction firms, environmental consultants, lenders and local elected officials are invited to attend.

WHERE: Bell Tower Lofts, 1503 Central Ave. Northwest, Unit 108 (between 12th Street and Rio Grande on the north side of the street)

WHEN: From 4 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 14

WHO: Water and Waste Water Development Division Director Marcy Leavitt, Ground Water Quality Bureau Chief Bill Olson and other members of the department will attend the event.

WHY: NMED receives funding for the Voluntary Remediation Program, Targeted Brownfields Assessment Services and the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Program through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Voluntary Remediation Program allows property owners or prospective purchasers to clean up a contaminated property through a nonpunitive process (For more information about Brownfields sites, visit www.nmenv.state.nm.us/gwb/New_Pages/ROS_files/VRP_New/brownfields.htm)

For more information, call Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314.

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